

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY C:JMMONTGOMERY

APPROVED BY C:HSonnenfeldt

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 285828

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR - FRENCH DATA PROBLEM

REF: STATE 285773

1. AS YOU SEE FROM REFTEL, THE QUESTION OF WHO WILL APPROACH THE FRENCH ON THE DATA REMAINED OPEN WITH RUTH AND ROTH. IT IS OUR STRONG IMPRESSION THAT AS THINGS NOW STAND, RUTH WILL WORK TO GET THE BELGIANS TO MAKE THE APPROACH. THE BEST THAT ROTH WOULD AGREE TO WAS THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN BONN.

2. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT AN APPROACH BY THE GERMANS WOULD CARRY MUCH MORE WEIGHT AND THUS STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE. RUTH WILL BE SEEING THE BELGIANS ON MONDAY

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AFTERNOON. REQUEST THAT YOU CALL VAN WELL ON MONDAY MORN-

ING AND TELL HIM THAT YOU HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ME ON THE RESULTS OF THE WASHINGTON TALKS. YOU MAY TELL HIM THAT WE WERE PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME, BUT THAT I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED ABOUT WHO SHOULD APPROACH THE FRENCH. I UNDERSTAND POSSIBLE BELGIAN SENSITIVITIES, BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST WERE THE GERMANS TO MAKE THE PRESENTATION TO THE FRENCH. WE THINK THIS WOULD CARRY THE MOST WEIGHT AND INCREASE THE CHANCES OF THE FRENCH GOING ALONG WITH OUR APPROACH. ROBINSON

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